PURPOSE

To standardize overhead emergency announcements in Michigan Department of Health and Human Services hospitals to promote system continuity and error reduction.

DEFINITIONS

Facility Alert

A notification of environmental threats to a hospital's physical plant and surrounding area. Examples include, but are not limited to, hazardous material spills, evacuation of the hospital, and severe weather events.

Medical Alert

A notification of active medical emergencies including, but not limited to, those which require intervention from outside medical agencies.

Security Alert

A notification of security threats including, but not limited to, those which require intervention from outside law enforcement agencies.

POLICY

For purposes of the initiation of an appropriate response to an emergency, as defined by the hospital's emergency operation's plan, emergency codes are used to immediately notify appropriate hospital staff, as well as patients and visitors. Initiation of an emergency code may, or may not, include hospital-wide notification.

INITIATION

Upon starting the emergency notification process, hospitals must use the standardized code script:

Facility Alert Script

Evacuation

"Facility alert" + "evacuation" + descriptor + location.

Utility or Technology Interruption

"Facility alert" + descriptor + location.

Severe Weather

"Facility alert" + descriptor + location + instructions.

Fire

"Code red" + descriptor + location.

Hazardous Spill

"Code orange" + descriptor + location.

Security Alert Script

Active Shooter

"Security alert" + "active shooter" + descriptor + location.

Armed Violent Intruder

"Security alert" + descriptor/threat + location.

Hostage Situation

"Security alert" + descriptor/threat + location.

Need for a Team Assist

"Alert" + "team assistance needed" + descriptor + location.

Need for Security Personnel

"Code gray" + descriptor/threat + location.

Infant/Child Abduction

"Code pink" + descriptor (age/description) + location.

Bomb Threat

"Code black" + descriptor/threat + location.

**Medical Alert
Script**

Emergency Operations Plan Activation

"Code green" + descriptor.

Medical Decontamination (includes chemical or radiological exposure)

"Code orange" + "decontamination" + descriptor + location.

Medical Emergency

"Code blue" + location.

Note: Overhead emergency announcements should be repeated at least three times.

TERMINATION

All-Clear

Once the emergency has been effectively managed, cancel the event notification. Send an all-clear message to everyone who received the notification using original process.

Note: The all-clear message should be repeated at least three times.

REFERENCES

Joint Commission. Overhead Emergency Codes.

CONTACT

For more information, please contact the State Hospital Administration.